## leiper'sCreekGALLERY

Perfectly Matched - Perfectly Balanced



Gallery Owner Lisa Fox and Interior Designer Robin Rains

## Photography by Jerry Atnip

Over the past 14 years, Lisa Fox has welcomed all kinds of visitors and collectors through the doors of Leiper's Creek Gallery. She has heard and felt the longing people have to somehow include art in their homes and in their lives. As the owner of the gallery, she has placed hundreds of art works in private and public collections. She has an eye, as well as an ear for listening to what clients connect with. She had the idea that if the art were put into a context with furnishings, not only would it increase the offerings, but it would help people visualize and have reference spatially.

Over the years Fox had worked with many well-known designers, but her first thought was of Robin Rains of Robin Rains Interiors. "We had worked together when she had Old Hillsboro Antiques across the street from the gallery several years ago," Fox says. "I knew how she loved and appreciated art in her interiors. Robin is an artist in her own right. Her medium is furnishings and her interior spaces are her canvas. Texture, color, shape, scale, and placement are all considerations for her as well. Like me, she loves the mix of traditional and contemporary."

They both felt like it was meant to be. "When I called to invite Robin to join me, she said, 'Lisa, I have been thinking the same thing!'" Fox says.

So in true Leiper's Fork style, Fox threw an opening to introduce the furnishings and Rains as the next level of excellence to add to the experience of Leiper's Creek Gallery.

"The results were impressive, and the response was overwhelming! Our clients can now see how a certain painting will look over a sofa, or how a unique sculpture can take center stage as the focal point of a room," Fox says. "It has unlocked imaginations. I was a little reluctant to lose the traditional gallery model. But I'm glad that I did. We're providing an enhanced gallery experience, showing art in a new and innovative way, and people are responding. Not just in increased sales, but I can see they are spending more time connecting with the art, visualizing it in their homes and enhancing their lives. We're also working with many other interior designers, helping them find the right piece of art or furnishings for their clients. This has been a successful collaboration for all of us."

Leiper's Creek Gallery, nestled in the magical landscape of Leiper's Fork, is an eclectic collection of fine art, mixing contemporary artists including Mel Rea, Leslie Shiels, and Michael Madzo to more traditional artists such as Roger Dale Brown, Clay Enoch, and Anne Blair Brown.

Rains keeps her color palette in the gallery neutral, with shades of white, bone, and gray, so the art is still the focus of the room. "The art and sculpture complete the look by adding drama and personality," Rains says. "Art can add a pop of color, and sculpture gives the space an unexpected design element."



Paintings by Paula Frizbe, Roger Dale Brown, Leslie Shiels, and Michael Madzo. Sculpture by Debra Fritts and Clay Enoch



Paintings by Pamela Padgett, Sharon Spigel, Dawn Whitelaw, Mel Rea, Anne Blair Brown, P. E. Foster and Kevin Menck. Sculpture by C. T. Whitehouse



Sculpture by Debra Fritts and Tim Cherry (on chest). Paintings by Pamela Padgett and Roger Dale Brown



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Sculptures by C.T. Whitehouse and Clay Enoch. Paintings by Roger Dale Brown and Mel Rea

She layers in texture through rugs, vintage Oushak pillows and unique accessories. The array of furnishings is a blend of styles and periods, including 18th-century French antiques and Spanish pieces mixed with post modern and contemporary furnishings.

Fox and Rains agree that the gallery has a newfound sense of intimacy. With more to offer, visitors linger and seem to enjoy perusing the gallery in a new way. With both art and furnishings to offer, it is a win/win. The furnishings are selling the art and the art is selling the furnishings. Perfectly matched, perfectly balanced."

Leiper's Creek Gallery is located south of Nashville in Leiper's Fork. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.leiperscreekgallery.com.

